

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband,)	
Interoperable Public Safety Network in the)	PS Docket No. 06-229
700 MHz Band)	
)	
Development of Operational, Technical and)	
Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal,)	WT Docket No. 96-86
State and Local Public Safety Communications)	
Requirements Through the Year 2010)	

**COMMENTS FROM THE MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**

MAY 23,2007

■ INTRODUCTION

Mower County is located in south central Minnesota and has a population of approximately 41,000 people, less than 1% of the total population of Minnesota. The County covers more than 700 square miles. Interstate 90, a major east west transportation corridor, runs through our county and brings activity to an otherwise rural setting. Mower County Public Safety agencies currently do not have and wireless data system access. We were excited to learn that the Region 22 RPC Plan had been approved by the FCC and we began the process to purchase and install a 700 MHz wideband data system.

II. COMMENTS

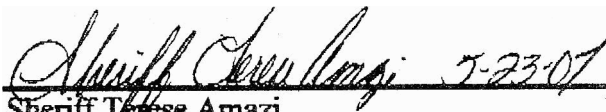
Our agencies fully support the resolution passed by the Region 22 (Minnesota) Public Safety Regional Planning Committee on May 22, 2007, regarding comments to address the Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 07-72 (Further Notice), adopted by the Commission on April 25, 2007.

Mower County is a typical Minnesota County in that it is mostly rural and does not have significant financial resources. We were prepared to make a significant financial investment in a wireless data network to provide critical information to our public safety responders. Mower County has a county-wide annual budget of \$29,385,328.00. The Sheriffs Office annual budget is \$2,200,000.00. The cost to implement a wideband 700 MHz system is estimated to be \$500,000.00. It is unlikely that we could afford broadband access, even if it was available in our area. We feel very strongly that the Further Notice will not only prevent us from moving forward with this very important project, but it will likely preclude our county from ever having access to a high speed data network.

The comments presented by the Region 22 RPC seem to be a practical approach to address the desire of the FCC as well as provide an affordable, practical alternative to those of us who would likely never see the development of a broadband wireless data network. We understand the difficulties with a "one size fits all" policy for data systems in rural and urban settings. We urge the FCC to consider the plan proposed by Region 22, or one that better addresses the needs of rural America

III. SUMMARY

The Further Notice may offer relief to public safety personnel in urban areas of the country where population density may support a wireless broadband network. The Further Notice will have a significant negative impact on many less populated areas of the country. The need for timely, critical information is no less important to our public safety responders than it is to those in urban areas. For the reasons noted above, we oppose the changes recommended in the Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, FCC 07-72. We recommend consideration of the plan proposed by Region 22 RPC.

 5-23-07

Sheriff Terese Amazi
Mower County, Minnesota